

building COMMUNITY

For Indiana's Third Century

September-October 2004

**building
COMMUNITY**, a bimonthly publication of Indiana 2016, solicits articles from around Indiana that illustrate community-based efforts. Please electronically submit articles to kbrett@dwd.state.in.us. Digital photographs are accepted and encouraged.

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Stopping Violence and Building a Home

The Department of Labor estimates that every 6 hours a woman is killed as a direct result of domestic violence. And, although domestic violence is often hidden, it is there, impacting women and children--and our communities. Domestic violence shelters seek to provide a safe place for victims and the skills needed to gain self-sufficiency. During a recent visit to **Boone County's** Helping Hands Shelter, a volunteer (and domestic violence survivor) observed that domestic violence is

domestic *terrorism*, affecting the entire community in tangible and intangible ways.

In order to address this community problem, communities across the nation, and Indiana, are designing programs, building shelters, and taking a stand against violence. In **Indianapolis**, Coburn Place Safe Haven provides safe, affordable housing and supportive services to women and children who are homeless because of leaving abusive situations. Located at 604 E. 38th Street, Coburn Place gives women and their



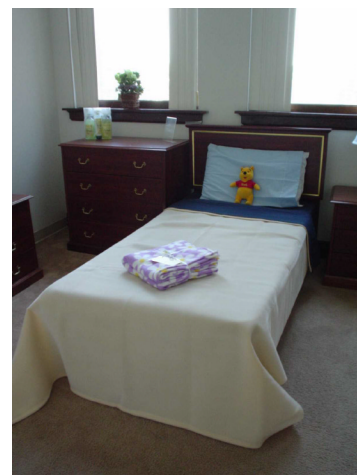
Volunteers at Coburn Place Safe Haven.

children a chance to start anew. Providing furnished apartments, complete with dishes, linens and toys for children, Coburn Place offers an opportunity to finally accomplish the dream that an abusive partner and circumstances prevented.

At Coburn Place, in exchange for affordable housing and utilities, a woman must be employed, enrolled in school or in job training. Residents sign a six-month lease (with the option to stay 2 years), pay a percentage of their income for rent and utilities and create budgets that enable them to save money for permanent housing after two years.

What types of programs or shelters exist in your community? How can you, your business, your organization, your church, or your family assist them in making your community safer?

Find out more about Coburn Place Safe Haven and ways you can get involved at www.coburnplace.org, and for more information about domestic violence programs in your area, visit the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence web site at www.violenceresource.org



An aptmnt awaits new residents at Coburn Place.

Gatherings

by Judy O'Bannon



International terrorist acts have made us ever aware of the conflicts that exist in our world. As a result, we talk a lot these days about the need we have for safe places.

Here in Indiana, we are so blessed to have constant reminders of a caring community around us amidst it all. Friends and neighbors who automatically pitch in when needs arise such as an illness, a broken piece of farm equipment or a time crunch on a work assignment. And over the years, this same community spirit has built the institutions, programs, and organizations needed to provide services and opportunities in a more comprehensive manner.

I often feel autumn is a time for a community to regroup as we prepare for the coming onslaught of the winter winds. Crops are harvested and sent to market and stored for those months ahead. Boats, garden shovels, and suntan lotion are all stored in favor of basketball games and the holiday season. Schools set up after-hours enrichment programs for children until their parents get off work. Can't you just feel the arms of warmth, comfort, and caring linking around we Hoosiers in the crisp autumn days?

Though we know neither our sharing and concern for others, nor the resourcefulness of our organizations and programs, will change the amount of snowfall or drop in temperature outside, *they will change us*. People with a good sense of purpose and support have always flourished—even in harsh times. We are no different. We must continue to create those safe, nurturing, and inspiring programs that make our communities grow.

You may not be gathering in the harvest of a garden, but how are you are laying up supplies and resources in your work with your community? Let us gather together and be ready for the future.

My Indiana by Bonnie Carroll

*My Indiana beckons me in a voice soft, sincere.
She whispers in a language only the reverent can hear.
Melodious words, rhythmical sighs, like mother to her child.
I drink her in, relish her, like nectar sweet and mild.
I love her hills, her flatlands, her streambeds, and rivers too.
And as her seasons slowly change, her beauty shines anew—
From icy whites in winter to spring's colorful array,
From hazy greens in summer to fall's glorious display.
She has been sculpted by an Artist with a loving hand.
I cherish her; she nurtures me, my Indiana land.*



Closing the “GAPS”

By Katy Brett

Jerry Cook and the Life GAPS in **Monticello** are finding a way to fill in the gaps for students struggling to find their niche in school. Life GAPS, a non-profit educational organization that works with community businesses and private individuals, originated in 2001 and focuses on reaching at-risk students. Housed in a former portable high school classroom owned by a commercial business, the purpose of Life GAPS is finding those gifts in students who haven't yet discovered them, bringing them out, and introducing students to the ways that they can be a part of the community, instead of struggling against it. GAPS—Grades, Attitude, Perseverance, School—represents the essentials that Cook and his team believe are essential to success for these students.

Founded and run by Cook, a retired teacher, Life GAPS caters its program to the student, offering long term or short term placement for those who have dropped out of or left the traditional school setting. These students fall into two categories, as identified by Cook—those who are “conventional delinquents”, identified through the court system, and those who are “educational delinquents”, identified as students who are currently 2 or more grades below average levels or who are currently receiving 2 or more Fs. Offering a broad education with a small student to teacher ratio and utilizing retired licensed teachers, Cook is presenting these students with the tools they need to recognize their gifts and to apply those gifts in their communities.

It isn't about reform; it's about cultivation and development of skills so that life has a purpose. In addition to the basics—reading, writing, and arithmetic—the curriculum includes disciplines designed to bring out the potential of students not finding success in a traditional setting. Classes include vocational skills such as electrical skills,

small engine repair, tool repair and reconditioning, wood-working, metalworking, and welding as well as computer classes with a focus on mechanics. Further classes include art, health, life mapping, and penmanship.

Though field trips, students also receive the chance to explore and participate in other real-world experiences. The students are taken to area farms and businesses where they observe and receive some “hands-on” working with pigs, ponies, and goats. But, it isn't all work for these students—they have also traveled to Minnesota on fishing trips and to Nashville to visit the Grand Ol' Opry. And, last year, they had the opportunity to spend 2 hours with Mohammed Ali at his home!



Photos from visit with Ali.

LifeGaps is filling a need. Jerry Cook calculates that there are 60 students at the area middle school that could benefit from this program, and his current capacity stands at only 15. Yet, with lofty goals like increasing self-esteem, identifying a life purpose, developing successful citizens, and preventing a teen from going to jail, it must continue to grow. Backed by a few area businesses and groups, LifeGaps is certainly making a difference in this small northwestern Indiana community.

To find out more about LifeGaps or about how you can support LifeGaps' efforts, contact Jerry Cook at cooknet@ffni.com.



Volunteers sort donations.

America Recycles 2004!

America Recycles 2004 reminds us that “**It ALL Comes Back to YOU!**”

Visit the tunnel between the Indiana State House and the Indiana Government Center South to view displays on the ways Indiana state government and others are recycling!

As a part of America Recycles 2004, which culminates on November 15, the various panels highlight many different ways that state agencies and others in our community participate in the full “cycle” of recycling. The recycling cycle includes the collection of used materials, which are then processed and used as the feedstock to make new consumer products to buy. Recycling not only conserves resources, but it also reduces our need for disposal facilities and creates many jobs!

For information about the state government efforts that are featured in the displays, contact Janet Fox at jfox@idoa.IN.gov.

For information on the national America Recycles Day campaign, visit www.americarecyclesday.org. At this site, you can take the recycling pledge and enter to win a Ford Motor Company's Escape Hybrid (adult grand prize) or Trek 24-speed recycled-aluminum content bike (youth prize), as well as discover many ways that **YOU** can recycle every day!

Hundreds of volunteers highlight Hoosier technology at the 2004 Indiana State Fair

At this year's Indiana State Fair, Indiana 2016 again set out to create a booth that encourages, highlights, and stimulates interest in innovation and creative thinking. Over 350 volunteers participated, and once again our partners produced exciting, stimulating activities that highlighted the best of innovative thinking in Indiana.

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and visited!

Partners included:

FIRST Robotics

(Anderson, Carmel, West Lafayette, McKenzie Career Center, and Hammond Schools)

Indiana Space Grant Consortium

WFYI

(WFYI, Indiana Grantmakers Alliance, CICF, AECF)

Indiana State University

Purdue University

Indiana University School of Informatics

Purdue Society of Professional Engineers



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